



# Capitol Critique



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**Making Children the Priority:  
Missing Children’s Legislation Passes House Floor**

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, the Ranking Member of both the Committee on House Administration and the Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards of the U.S. House of Representatives Franking Commission, introduced H.R. 4416, a permanent measure which authorizes Members of Congress and the Federal government to use their official mail to support the U.S. Justice Department’s program to locate and recover missing children.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, one in six of these children is recovered as a direct result of someone in the general public recognizing the child in the picture and notifying authorities.

The U.S. Postal Service reports that in Fiscal Year 2005 congressional offices mailed more than 87 million pieces of franked mail and U.S. government agencies and departments mailed more than one million pieces. If half of this mail had included a photo and biographical information of any of the estimated 797,000 children currently reported missing, there would have been almost 710 million chances of a child being located and reunited with his or her family.

**AREA STUDENTS RECEIVE A LESSON IN THE  
DEMOCRATIC PROCESS**

Area college students attending the California State University system are getting a lesson in the democratic process thanks to a program aimed at recruiting and training college students to become poll workers. A recent study conducted by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC), revealed the average age of poll workers is 72.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald introduced an amendment to the Transportation-Treasury Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2007 which provides \$250,000 in additional funding to the EAC for the training of college students to become election poll workers. This important initiative is expected to instill in students a healthy sense of community service and respect for the democratic process and is lauded by election officials across the country.



Congresswoman Millender-McDonald dedicated the “Honoring the Fallen” memorial during a ceremony held on June 27, 2006. The memorial was established by the House of Representatives to honor our troops who lost their lives in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“Honoring the Fallen” memorial consists of a mounted wall that displays the name of each of the fallen heroes. Names are added as fallen veterans make the ultimate sacrifice.

**Wall of the Fallen**

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald honors our fallen heroes at the “Honoring the Fallen” dedication. Navy and Air Force Liaisons attended the service.

**PROTECTING THE VOTE:  
OVERSIGHT HEARING WITH ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

As the Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, one of the Congresswoman’s areas of responsibility is the oversight of federal elections. Recently, the Committee held a Hearing with the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) regarding the progress of election reforms and to determine what Americans can expect during the 2006 elections.

An important part of election reform is the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. Congress passed HAVA as a direct result of the fallout from the 2000 Presidential election. During the hearing, Congresswoman Millender-McDonald inquired about the status of the following provisions:

- Are voting facilities fully accessible to disabled voters? States may satisfy this obligation with the use of a direct recording electronic voting system (DRE).
- What measures are in place to prevent voter fraud? An interactive and centralized system to handle statewide computerized voter registration lists is meant to address this issue. The lists are to be defined, maintained, and administered at the state level. They will contain the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the state, and assign a unique identifier to them.
- What is being done to improve Poll worker training and recruitment? For the most part, volunteers run our election facilities for many long hours and on very little pay. It is a problem that can be traced back to the 2004 election.

EAC Leadership testified that while much work has been done to make improvements outlined in HAVA, they conceded that they are still implementing reforms across the country and will continue to update Millender-McDonald as results come in.

SERVING THE 37TH DISTRICT WITH HONOR

THE CONGRESSWOMAN RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING:

- One of the Ten Most Effective Members of Congress (Washington Times—6/13/05). She was recognized for her ability to work with both sides of the aisle to get important legislation passed.
- Received National Archives Award for the Restoration of the Freedmen's Bureau Records from 1865-1872. Her authorship of the 'Freedmen's Bureau Preservation Act of 2000', led to the preservation and the microfilming of these historical records.
- National Leadership Award for Women's Rights and on-going work in Congress on Violence Against Women
- Honored by CARE, a leading humanitarian organization that advocates for women's issues and fights against global poverty and HIV/AIDS. She was recognized at their "I am Powerful" event for making this important work a part of her legislative agenda.
- Honored by The National Nutritional Foods Association with the 2006 Congressional Champion Award for her commitment to the natural foods industry to eliminate obesity.
- One of four women Members in Congress to become a Committee Ranking Member.

RESIDENTS TO OBTAIN KEYS TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

In an effort to increase the number of first-time homebuyers in the 37<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and in the Greater Los Angeles County, Millender-McDonald hosted a **Passport to Homeownership: A First-time Homebuyer Fair** in conjunction with the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco (FHLBank San Francisco) at The Grand Event Center in Long Beach.

The fair included English and Spanish language workshops that provided valuable information to potential first-time homeowners. Workshop participants learned how to qualify for home loans, repair their credit, and access up to \$100,000 in down payment assistance. Attendees also received a free credit report and analysis. The event was free and open to the public

“BLACK HEALTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT”  
IN COMPTON

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald hosted the Black Health Empowerment Project (BHEP) in May 2006. BHEP is a national obesity education and health promotion initiative designed to educate African Americans about the relationship between obesity and chronic health conditions.

Experts say African Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, and other chronic illnesses shown to have a direct link with obesity. Civic leaders, health experts and members of the community convened at the Black Empowerment Project to discuss the growing public health crises affecting adults and youth.

Healthier lifestyle habits were demonstrated to residents through cooking and fitness demonstrations, nutritious food tasting and health seminars. Additionally, this event provided free health screenings and vital information to attendees on topics ranging from diabetes and hypertension to stress reduction and weight management.



Millender-McDonald speaks with constituents about the importance of good health at the “Black Health Empowerment Project” fair.

Drug Courts Get \$40 Million in Funding

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald, a staunch defender of drug court programs, advocated for \$40 million in funding with the passage of H.R. 5672.

Drug courts are special courts given the responsibility of handling cases involving non-violent, substance-abuse offenders with addictions to methamphetamine, alcohol and other drugs through full supervision, drug testing, treatment, immediate sanctions, and incentives. Drug court programs bring the full weight of our legal and rehabilitation specialists to bear, forcing the offender to deal with his or her problems.

Drug courts help to not flood our justice system with non-violent offenders. Across the U.S., nearly 1,800 drug court programs are serving more than 70,000 participants with successful results.



Congresswoman Millender-McDonald and Academy Award Winning Actor/Advocate Lou Gossett Jr. met on Capitol Hill to discuss with fellow lawmakers the viability of drug courts

Geothermal Technology Program  
is Good for California

Millender-McDonald's Amendment to HR 5427, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for FY07 passed the House of Representatives. It secures \$5 million in funding to support the continuation of the Geothermal Technology Program.

A recent report from the Department of Energy found that California has the greatest potential for development of geothermal resources which is a critical source in our national renewable energy portfolio. Benefits of the Geothermal Technology Program include the enormous positive impact on air quality and quality of life, job creation and the reduction in energy costs for consumers.

Specifically, the funds secured will achieve the following:

- Update the 28 year-old national assessments of geothermal resources.
- Harness significant advances in energy development technology and geological sciences to better understand and manage our geothermal resources.
- Direct federal land management agencies to consider geothermal resources in their land use planning process and streamline the approval process.

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE SYMPOSIUM

Recently, Millender-McDonald hosted one of the most comprehensive symposiums conducted on *Family Emergency Preparedness and Response* at the Port of Long Beach. The Federal Director of Homeland Security, California Director of Homeland Security, representatives from local and county response teams along with area hospitals, fire and police departments gathered to present their emergency preparedness and response plans to residents.

Representatives from all levels of government presented comprehensive plans. Panelists explained the federal role in man-made and natural disasters, the responsibilities of state and local governments in our region and what measures residents must take to prepare themselves and their homes for unforeseen disasters.

Participants who attended the symposium received Emergency Preparedness and Response kits which included step by step instructions to residents on responding to a natural disaster and/or terrorist attack. The kits can be obtained by calling our District Office at 310-538-1190.

21st Century Abolitionist Movement : Human Trafficking

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald introduced an Amendment to H.R. 5522, Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007 that secures an additional \$2 million for worldwide programs that focus on the eradication of Human Trafficking.

The amendment addresses one of the greatest atrocities of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the trafficking of women, men and children for the purpose of forced labor and sexual exploitation, 80 percent of the victims are women and children.

In demonstrating tremendous leadership on this issue, Millender-McDonald led the largest bi-partisan Congressional Delegation in half a decade to the United Nations for an all-day roundtable discussion with U.N. Ambassador John Bolton. She also introduced legislation that urges the U.N. to establish a commission that will build a 21st Century Abolitionist Movement to end slavery, human trafficking, and sexual exploitation.

Human trafficking is a criminal network that affects about two million people every year, with an estimated 15,000 to 18,000 in the United States.

Bridging the Digital Divide Between Technology and African American History

The National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Board of Directors and Archivist Allen Weinstein honored Millender-McDonald for her authorship of the 'Freedmen's Bureau Preservation Act of 2000'. The enactment of this important piece of legislation led to the preservation and the microfilming of these historical records that document the important history of freed slaves following the Civil War.

The Freedmen's Bureau records expose the conditions and needs of slaves from 1865-1872 and exhibit the heroism of blacks and whites who fought against prevailing racism. Following the Civil War, The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands helped tens of thousands of former slaves with their transition from slavery to freedom. Other historical content also includes personal documents of the slaves such as marriage licenses.

For the first time in history, all Americans especially students who want to learn more about black family life and local history can do so without coming to Washington, DC.

Major League Baseball

A Training Academy For Youth in the 37th District

The very first Major League Baseball (MLB) Youth Training Academy in the country opened in Compton, California earlier this year. This is the result of Millender-McDonald's successful work to broker a partnership between Compton Community College officials and MLB executives nearly two years ago.

The Urban Baseball Youth Training Academy is a magnificent facility designed to expose youth from the South Bay area to all aspects of careers in baseball and to cultivate diversity within the sport. The academy will be instrumental in keeping inner-city youth in a positive, character building environment and away from the pitfalls of gang activity.

Ports of Long Beach, Los Angeles & Beyond Safer and More Efficient

The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles as well as every port in the United States have another layer of security thanks to the efforts of Millender-McDonald. Her amendment to the SAFE Port Act (HR 4954) passed in the United States House of Representatives with a vote of 421 to 2. This amendment will serve as a vital tool in securing our ports, trade corridors and American communities.

U.S. seaports handle over 95% of our foreign trade worth more than \$1 trillion annually, 42% of that is handled at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. An attack on any major seaport in the U.S. could have a crippling impact on the regional economy.

Her ongoing efforts to help establish and maintain a security infrastructure was aggressively addressed in her amendment by calling for truck inspection facilities to integrate new technologies that will make our supply lines more secure and efficient. The overall vision is to make American truck inspection stations, seaports and trade corridors a consolidated and coordinated system of security by providing safety inspections, security and emissions control check points.



Millender-McDonald met with Reginald Washington, Expert in African American Genealogy at NARA during the unveiling of Freedmen's Bureau Records. The records are now available on-line.

FISCAL YEAR 2005/2006 APPROPRIATIONS SECURED FOR THE 37TH DISTRICT

- \$1.8 billion projects of National and Regional Significance which includes I-710 and the 405 Freeway (some of the most congested arteries)
- \$100 million for the retrofitting of the Gerald Desmond Bridge
- \$50 million for American war veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq to receive counseling upon their return from combat
- \$47.5 million for highway and transportation projects in Carson, Compton, Long Beach, Los Angeles and Signal Hills
- \$1 million for Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery
- \$2.5 million for clean fuel buses for environmental health
- \$1.2 Million for a Major Water Desalination Project
- \$800,000 for a pedestrian bridge to provide safe passage for citizens who use wheelchairs
- \$830,000 for a park and ride facility to reduce traffic congestion
- \$500,000 for imaging and radiological expansion of women's services through second mammogram and therapy treatment
- \$500,000 to the Museum of Latin American Art for youth education in the art and culture of Latin America
- \$500,000 for a new small business development institute for entrepreneurship and global logistics program
- \$400,000 for gang intervention programs
- \$250,000 for boys and girls programs
- \$800 million - During the Election Assistance Commission Hearing the Congresswoman asked that the letter she wrote to the Committee on Appropriations, requesting that they provide the remaining \$800 million in funding authorized by HAVA for states to assist in federal elections to be included in the record .



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M.C.  
ECRWSS

# POSTAL PATRON

## News from Congress Selected Legislation Introduced by Congresswoman Millender-McDonald

**H.R. 2947— Teen Dating Violence Education Act of 2005** - Amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide domestic violence education programs including state-specific information on the legal rights of teenage victims of dating violence.

**H.R. 483 –Launching of the National Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Week—** Expresses support for: (1) increased awareness among parents, schools, and communities that dating violence is a criminal act; and (2) the ideals of the National Teen Dating Violence and Prevention Week.

**H.AMDT.571 to H.R. 2123—**Amendment encourages Head Start programs that receive grants to increase their outreach to homeless and foster children.

**H.AMDT.703 to H.R. 4939—** Amendment provides for the expansion of the U.S. training capacity for prosthetics and orthotics to the United States schools accredited by the National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education. Cal State Dominguez Hills has an accredited program. She is requesting \$20 million for this program

**H.AMDT.916 to H.R. 5427—** Amendment provides \$5 million for the Geothermal Technology Program which is a critical resource for renewable energy. A recent report from the Department of Energy found that California is among those States that has the greatest potential for quick development of geothermal resources.

**H.AMDT.1014 to H.R. 5576—**Amendment increases funding for the Election Assistance Commission by \$250,000 to be used for the training of college students to become election poll workers.

**H.R. 1116: Public Transportation Systems Vulnerability Assessment and Reduction Act of 2005—**To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess and reduce the vulnerabilities of public transportation systems.

**H.R. 3999: National Emergency Family Locator Act—**Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish within the Department a National Family Locator System to enable individuals displaced by an emergency to provide to the Department their names and locations and any other relevant information and convey the information to the family members of such individuals and law enforcement officials.

The legislation also directs the Secretary to conduct a public outreach program through public school districts to educate families on how to create a family preparedness plan of action in the event of a disaster in which family members are separated.

**H.AMDT.798 to H.R. 4954—**Amendment allows Port Security grants in the bill to be used to enhance truck inspection stations. This is a critical loophole in port security.

**H.R. 4140 Ensuring Ballot Access for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Victims Act of 2005**

To direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants upwards to \$50 million to States to restore or replace election infrastructure damaged by the Hurricanes.

**H.R. 175 Family Caregiver Security Act of 2005** - Amends the Social Security Act to provide for family caregivers to deliver health-care assistance to homebound seniors.

**H.R. 279: Family and Medical Leave Protection Act of 2005** – Amends certain categories of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 including domestic partners as spouses.

**Human Trafficking Legislation:**

**H. Res. 490: Urging the United Nations to establish a commission on the prevention of slavery, human trafficking, and exploitation—** Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should direct the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use U.S. influence to urge the United Nations to establish such a commission .

**H.AMDT 978 to H.R. 5522: Amendment increases funding for the Economic Support Fund by \$2 million—** Serves as another layer of defense for organizations working to eradicate Human Trafficking

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